WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A valet parking system, comprising:

a first data transceiver for inputting and retrieving a first set of vehicle identification data;

a second data transceiver located at a vehicle parking facility remote from said first data transceiver for inputting and retrieving a second set of vehicle identification data;

a central processor including a file memory for storing said first and second sets of vehicle identification data;

said second data transceiver outputting vehicle pick-up data for retrieval purposes in response to a vehicle retrieval command from said central processor.

2.   The system of Claim 1, further comprising a vehicle return station located remotely from said first and second data transceivers and operatively connected to said central processor for initiating said vehicle retrieval command at said central processor.

3.   The system of Claim 1, further comprising a server interconnecting said first data transceiver, said second data transceiver, and said central processor via a communication link.

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4. The system of Claim 3, wherein said communication link comprises a wireless communication link.

5. The system of Claim 1, further comprising output means coupled to said second data transceiver for providing said second set of vehicle identification data to an attendant for vehicle identification and location purposes.

6. The system of Claim 5, wherein said output means comprises a printer.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein said first data transceiver is a wireless handheld data transceiver including a scanner.

8. The system of Claim 7, wherein said first set of vehicle identification data comprises bar code data read by said scanner.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein said first set of vehicle identification data comprises vehicle license plate data.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein said first set of vehicle identification data further comprises driver identification data.

11.   The system of Claim 1, wherein said second set of vehicle identification data comprises parking spot location data.

12.   A method of systematically parking and retrieving a motor vehicle, comprising:

receiving a vehicle to be parked;

entering vehicle identification data into a central database;

parking said vehicle;

entering vehicle location data into the central database subsequent to said step of parking said vehicle;

receiving a vehicle retrieve command;

outputting vehicle retrieval data from said vehicle identification and location data input into the central database in response to said step of receiving said vehicle retrieve command; and

retrieving said vehicle in response to said step of outputting said vehicle retrieval data.

13.   The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of entering vehicle identification data comprises scanning bar code data from a ticket associated with said vehicle into the central database.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of entering vehicle location data comprises re-entering said bar code data into the central database subsequent to said step of parking said vehicle.

15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of scanning in vehicle identification data to initiate said step of receiving a vehicle retrieve command.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said step of scanning in vehicle identification data comprises the step of scanning in vehicle identification data remotely from said step of entering vehicle identification data.

17. The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of outputting vehicle retrieval comprises printing said vehicle retrieval data at a key station in proximity to said parked vehicle.

18. The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of entering vehicle location data comprises re-entering bar code data, entering valet attendant identification data, and entering parking space identification data.

19.   A valet parking system, comprising:

a handheld data transceiver for inputting and retrieving a first set of vehicle identification data from a vehicle being parked;

a second data transceiver located at a vehicle parking facility remote from said first data transceiver for inputting and retrieving a second set of vehicle identification data from the vehicle after the vehicle is parked;

a central processor including a file memory for storing said first and second sets of vehicle identification data;

remote retrieval means operative for permitting vehicle retrieval from a site remote from said handheld data transceiver;

a server operatively linking said handheld data transceiver, said second data transceiver, said central processor and said remote retrieval means;

said second data transceiver including a printer for printing vehicle pick-up data for retrieval purposes in response to a vehicle retrieval command being generated by either said handheld data transceiver or said remote retrieval means and sent from said central processor; and

means for generating financial and employee performance evaluation reports based on said first and second sets of vehicle identification data.

20.   In a valet parking system including a vehicle retrieval request station located remotely from a valet parking system staging area, a method of initiating retrieval of a parked motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

5   receiving a vehicle retrieval request at the vehicle retrieval request station;

computing a vehicle retrieval time window to determine average vehicle retrieval time for a predetermined time period;

displaying an expected vehicle retrieval time based on the 10   vehicle retrieval time window at the vehicle retrieval request station; and

displaying a customer assistance message at the vehicle retrieval request station in response to vehicle retrieval delays.

22 21.   The method of Claim 20, wherein said step of computing a vehicle retrieval time window comprises computing a sliding time window that compiles an average of vehicle retrieval times over the predetermined time period.

23 22.   The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of periodically updating the sliding time window to maintain accuracy of said step of displaying an expected vehicle retrieval time.

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~~23~~.   In a valet parking system including at least one data transceiver in communication with a central database, a method of implementing a personalized valet parking system, comprising the steps of:

      receiving a vehicle to be parked for a first time through said

5   valet parking system;

      entering vehicle license plate data as a first data set;

      entering customer name data as a second data set;

      storing said first and second data sets;

      upon a subsequent return of said vehicle to said valet

10   parking system, entering said vehicle license plate data;

      automatically retrieving said second data set in response to said step of entering said vehicle license plate data, thereby permitting a valet parking system attendant to identify and greet a driver of said vehicle by name.

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~~25~~ ~~24~~.   The method of Claim ~~23~~, further comprising the step of entering additional vehicle identification data and driver identification data as a third data set, and automatically retrieving said third data set in response to said step of entering said vehicle license plate data.